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NOTRE DAME

WOMEN'S BASKETBALL

2002-03 Irish Schedule/Results (0-0, 0-0 BIG EAST)

November

4 (10/12) *Houston Jaguars ... W, 87-50*
19 (9/12) *OGBM Legends 7 p.m.*
26 *Cleveland State 7 p.m.*
29 at USC 7 p.m.

December

4 at Valparaiso 7 p.m.
7 # at Arizona State (FSN) Noon
11 at DePaul 7:30 p.m.
14 *Temple 1 p.m.*
21 *Indiana-Purdue-Fort Wayne .. 2 p.m.*
23 *Colorado State 2 p.m.*
28 \$ vs. Tennessee 1 p.m.
31 at Marquette 2 p.m.

January

4 *Purdue (CBS) 4 p.m.*
8 * at West Virginia 7 p.m.
11 * *Miami (BETV) Noon*
14 * at St. John's 7:30 p.m.
18 * *Rutgers 2 p.m.*
20 * *Connecticut (ESPN2) 2 p.m.*
25 * at Villanova (BETV) Noon
29 * at Boston College 7 p.m.

February

1 * *West Virginia 5 p.m.*
5 * *Georgetown 7 p.m.*
9 * at Virginia Tech (BETV) 2 p.m.
12 * *St. John's 7 p.m.*
16 * at Providence 2 p.m.
23 * at Connecticut 2 p.m.
26 * *Pittsburgh 7 p.m.*

March

1 * *Seton Hall 4 p.m.*
4 * at Syracuse 7 p.m.
8-11 ^ BIG EAST Championship
22-25 NCAA First & Second Rounds
29-Apr. 1 NCAA Regionals

April

6-8 NCAA Final Four (*Atlanta, Ga.*)

* indicates BIG EAST Conference game

Italics indicates exhibition game

Boldface indicates home game played at Joyce Center (11,418)

AstraZeneca Hoops for the Cure Classic II (Tempe, Ariz.)

\$ Game to be played at Conseco Fieldhouse (Indianapolis, Ind.)

^ BIG EAST Conference Championship (Piscataway, N.J.)

(FSN) Game to be televised live on Fox Sports Net

(CBS) Game to be televised live on CBS

(ESPN2) Game to be televised live on ESPN2

(BETV) Game to be televised live on BIG EAST TV package

Numbers before opponent name indicate Notre Dame's ranking in AP and ESPN/USA Today polls at tipoff; numbers after opponent name indicate its ranking.

All times local to site // Dates and times subject to change

Game No. **Ex.**

(#9 AP/#12 ESPN/USA Today) Notre Dame Fighting Irish vs. Ohio Girls Basketball Magazine Legends

The Date and Time: Tuesday, Nov. 19, 2002, at 7 p.m. EST.

The Site: Joyce Center (11,418) in Notre Dame, Ind.

The Radio Plans: All Notre Dame games are broadcast live on WDND-AM (ESPN Radio 1620) and WNDV-AM (1490) in South Bend with **Sean Stires** (play-by-play) and **Sean Lewallen** (analysis). These broadcasts also are available through the Notre Dame athletics website at www.und.com.

Real-Time Statistics: Live in-game statistics will be available for the OGBM Legends game through the Notre Dame (www.und.com) athletics website.

Website: Notre Dame (www.und.com).

IRISH TO FACE VETERAN OGBM LEGENDS SQUAD IN SECOND EXHIBITION GAME

Following a 15-day hiatus between exhibition games, Notre Dame will have one final opportunity to fine tune its performance when it plays host to the Ohio Girls Basketball Magazine (OGBM) Legends Tuesday at 7 p.m. (EST) at the Joyce Center. After Tuesday's game, the Irish will have another week off before opening the 2002-03 season against former Midwestern Collegiate Conference rival Cleveland State Nov. 26 at 7 p.m., also at the Joyce Center.

Notre Dame took the floor for the first time this year back on Nov. 4, easily dispatching the Houston Jaguars in their exhibition opener, 87-50. Sophomore center **Teresa Borton** had a perfect shooting night, going 8-for-8 from the field and 4-for-4 from the foul line to score a game-high 20 points. Had it been a regular season game, her field goal accuracy would have been the second-best performance in Joyce Center history, topped only by **Sandy Botham's** 9-for-9 outing against Evansville in 1986.

Sophomore forward **Jacqueline Batteast** showed she can be valuable to the Irish in ways other than on the scoreboard. Despite going 3-of-16 from the field and scoring 11 points, she plucked a game-high 15 rebounds, dished out a game-best seven assists, and added four steals and three blocked shots.

The OGBM Legends are in the final stages of a 15-game tour of the Midwest that has seen them post a 3-10 mark to date, with wins over Oakland, Cleveland State and Youngstown State. The Legends come to town on the heels of a tough 80-69 loss at No. 7 Purdue Monday night in West Lafayette. Forward **Larecha Jones**, a 1999 Ohio State graduate, scored a game-high 33 points for the Legends.

Jones has been the leading scorer for OGBM during the tour, topping 20 points seven times in 13 games.

LAST IRISH GAME

Notre Dame 87, Houston Jaguars 50
Exhibition Game #1
November 4, 2002
Joyce Center (Notre Dame, Ind.)

Houston Jaguars (50)

Player	min	fg-a	3fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Tubbs	19	1-5	0-0	0-0	2	0	3	2
Delispiore	16	0-1	0-1	1-2	1	1	4	1
McCoy	10	0-5	0-3	2-2	2	1	1	2
Simpson	15	2-3	0-0	1-2	6	0	2	5
Bovgere	21	2-6	1-3	3-3	1	1	3	8
Johnson	21	2-5	0-0	1-2	1	1	2	5
Smith	22	1-7	0-3	1-2	6	2	2	3
Conley	12	0-5	0-2	2-2	5	0	2	2
Bell	16	1-4	0-0	4-6	4	0	1	6
Goodman	9	0-2	0-1	0-0	2	0	2	0
Davis	17	3-4	0-0	2-2	2	0	4	8
Jackson	22	3-17	0-9	2-3	4	2	2	8
Team					3			
Totals	200	15-64	1-22	19-26	39	8	28	50

Notre Dame (87)

Player	min	fg-a	3fg-a	ft-a	reb	ast	pf	tp
Batteast	29	3-16	0-4	5-7	15	7	3	11
Flechy	22	3-8	0-0	3-4	4	3	4	9
Borton	25	8-8	0-0	4-4	9	1	4	20
Severe	20	6-9	0-0	3-4	3	3	3	15
Wicks	10	2-5	1-3	1-2	1	1	1	6
Krause	20	1-1	0-0	1-2	4	1	1	3
Swanson	7	1-3	0-1	2-2	3	1	0	4
Duffy	22	2-6	1-4	1-2	7	0	2	6
Ratay	20	0-7	0-4	1-4	3	1	1	1
LaVerre	25	3-8	0-0	6-7	6	2	3	12
Team					7			
Totals	200	29-71	2-16	27-38	62	20	22	87

Houston 25 25 -- 50
Notre Dame 39 48 -- 87

FG Pct: Houston 23.4, Notre Dame 40.8. **3-PT FG Pct:** Houston 4.5, Notre Dame 12.5. **FT Pct:** Houston 73.1, Notre Dame 71.1. **Turnovers:** Houston 28, Notre Dame 25. **Blocked Shots:** Houston 5 (Jackson 2), Notre Dame 4 (Batteast 3). **Steals:** Houston 14 (Bovgere, Smith 3), Notre Dame 16 (Batteast, Flechy, Duffy 4). **Attendance:** 6,096.

NOTRE DAME VS. OGBM LEGENDS (EXHIBITION)



ASSOCIATED PRESS POLL (Nov. 18)

Rk.	Team	Record	Last
1.	Duke (37)	0-0	1
2.	Tennessee (4)	1-0	2
3.	LSU (1)	0-0	3
4.	Kansas State	2-0	5
5.	Stanford	0-0	7
6.	Connecticut	0-0	4
7.	Purdue	0-0	8
8.	Georgia	0-0	9
9.	NOTRE DAME	0-0	10
10.	Louisiana Tech	1-0	16
11.	Vanderbilt	0-0	12
12.	Texas	0-0	11
13.	Texas Tech	0-1	7
14.	Penn State	2-0	14
15.	North Carolina	0-0	13
16.	Minnesota	0-0	15
17.	Arkansas	0-0	17
18.	Cincinnati	0-0	18
19.	Boston College	0-0	20
20.	Mississippi State	2-0	24
21.	George Washington	0-0	21
22.	Iowa State	0-0	23
23.	Oklahoma	0-0	22
24.	Colorado State	0-1	19
25.	UC Santa Barbara	0-0	25

ESPN/USA TODAY POLL (Nov. 5 - preseason)

Rk.	Team	'01-02 Record	Last
1.	Duke (25)	31-4	4
2.	Tennessee (8)	29-5	3
3.	Connecticut (6)	39-0	1
4.	LSU	18-12	22
5.	Kansas State	26-8	10
6.	Stanford	32-3	8
7.	Texas Tech	20-12	12
8.	Purdue	24-6	14
9.	Georgia	19-11	NR
10.	Vanderbilt	30-7	5
11.	Texas	22-10	13
12.	NOTRE DAME	20-10	NR
13.	North Carolina	26-9	11
14.	Penn State	23-12	18
15.	Louisiana Tech	25-5	19
16.	Arkansas	20-12	NR
17.	Minnesota	22-8	21
18.	Colorado State	24-7	24
19.	Oklahoma	32-4	2
20.	TCU	24-7	25
21.	Iowa State	24-9	16
22.	Cincinnati	27-5	23
23.	Old Dominion	28-6	7
24.	Boston College	23-8	NR
25.	George Washington	21-9	NR

Boldface indicates 2002-03 Notre Dame opponents

RATAY, BATTEAST NAMED TO 2002-03 NAISMITH PRESEASON WATCH LIST

Senior guard **Alicia Ratay** (Lake Zurich, Ill.) and sophomore forward **Jacqueline Batteast** (South Bend, Ind.) have been named preseason candidates for the 2002-03 Naismith College Basketball Player of the Year Awards which are presented annually by the Atlanta Tipoff Club.

The Naismith Awards program, now in its 35th year, honors the outstanding male and female college basketball players in the United States. The awards program was founded by the Atlanta Tipoff Club, an organization dedicated to recognizing the achievements of student-athletes in basketball.

The candidates were selected by a vote of the Board of Selectors comprised of leading basketball coaches, journalists and basketball analysts.

For Ratay, this year's selection to the Naismith Preseason Watch List is her third in as many seasons. The senior guard is a two-time Associated Press honorable mention All-American and ranks ninth on Notre Dame's career scoring list with 1,375 points. She also ranks among the top 10 in NCAA history in career three-point (.480) and free throw percentage (.867), and she is on the verge of breaking the school record for career three-point field goals made, needing just 38 treys to eclipse **Sheila McMillen's** total of 249 from 1995-99.

Last season, Ratay was a first-team all-BIG EAST Conference selection after finishing third in the conference in scoring at 15.4 points per game. She also averaged a career-high 5.5 rebounds per game and ranked 15th in the nation in free throw percentage, hitting a school-record 88.2 percent of her charities. Ratay started every game for the Irish last season and has played in every Notre Dame game in her career, starting 97 of a possible 98 contests.

Batteast was named the 2002 United States Basketball Writers Association (USBWA) National Freshman of the Year and a WBCA/Kodak honorable mention All-America pick after averaging 13.8 points and 7.8 rebounds per game in her rookie season at Notre Dame. The sophomore forward ranked second in the BIG EAST in rebounding and double-doubles (11) and fifth in blocked shots (1.38 bpg.), earning second-team all-conference honors along the way. She also was a unanimous choice as the BIG EAST Rookie of the Year and was a six-time conference Rookie of the Week in 2001-02. Batteast is one of only four sophomores to be named to the 2002-03 Naismith Preseason Watch List.

Notre Dame is one of only five schools to have more than one women's basketball player named to the Naismith Preseason Watch List, joining Duke, Kansas State, LSU and Tennessee in that select group.

EXHIBITION EXCELLENCE FOR IRISH

Notre Dame has been nearly unbeatable in exhibition games over the last 10 seasons. Since the 1993-94 campaign, the Irish are 17-1 (.944) in this preseason tilts and own an active 12-game exhibition winning streak, including an 87-50 win over the Houston Jaguars in this year's preseason opener. During that time, Notre Dame has outscored its preseason opponents by an average score of 89-64. The last squad to defeat the Irish in exhibition play was the Lithuanian National Team, which edged Notre Dame, 94-89 in 1996-97. But the Irish were not fazed by that loss -- they went on to reach their first NCAA Final Four that year. Here's a look at how Notre Dame has fared since 1993-94 in exhibition games:

2002-03	W, 87-50 vs. Houston Jaguars
2001-02	W, 76-62 vs. Ohio Girls' Basketball Magazine Legends
	W, 87-39 vs. Christian Brothers University
2000-01	W, 98-53 vs. Finnish Select Team
	W, 91-56 vs. Ohio All-Stars
1999-2000	W, 76-51 vs. EOS Malbas
	W, 94-85 vs. Premier All-Stars
1998-99	W, 88-37 vs. Estonia
	W, 111-82 vs. Visby-Sweden
1997-98	W, 66-34 vs. Slavyanka (Russia)
	W, 103-92 (3OT) vs. Brisbane (Australia) Blazers
1996-97	W, 74-54 vs. Dutch National Team
	L, 89-94 vs. Lithuanian National Team
1995-96	W, 90-83 (OT) vs. Hoosier All-Stars
	W, 93-85 vs. Sopron-Hungary
1994-95	W, 80-63 vs. Athletes in Action
	W, 84-65 vs. Australian Institute for Sport
1993-94	W, 109-59 vs. BK Strakonice

POLL POSITION

Notre Dame is ranked ninth in the latest *Associated Press* poll, the highest ranking for the Irish in the

JOYCE CENTER • NOTRE DAME, IND.

NOTRE DAME'S PROBABLE STARTING LINEUP

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	PPG*	RPG*	Other*	Notes
21	Jacqueline Batteast	F	6-2	So.	13.8	7.8	2.0 apg	Double-double (11 pts., 15 rebs.) vs. Houston
33	Katy Flecky	F	6-2	So.	4.9	3.3	0.8 apg	Averaged 10 ppg. during 2002 European tour
12	Teresa Borton	C	6-3	So.	6.0	4.8	1.0 apg	Game-high 20 points (8-8 FG, 4-4 FT) vs. Houston
4	Le'Tania Severe (C)	G	5-8	Jr.	6.6	3.8	4.9 apg	Made first five shots, scored 15 pts. vs. Houston
22	Alicia Ratay (C)	G	6-0	Sr.	15.4	5.5	1.5 apg	Preseason Naismith Player of the Year candidate

OFF THE BENCH FOR THE IRISH

No.	Player	Pos.	Ht.	Yr.	PPG*	RPG*	Other*	Notes
5	Jeneka Joyce	G	5-9	Jr.	3.4	1.5	1.2 apg	Currently sidelined while rehabilitating injuries
10	Jill Krause	G	5-8	So.	0.4	0.3	0.3 apg	Saw action in 12 games during freshman season
11	Karen Swanson	G	5-8	Sr.	1.0	0.5	0.3 apg	Walk-on guard one of two seniors on '02-03 roster
13	Megan Duffy	G	5-7	Fr.	—	—	—	Tallied six points, seven rebounds vs. Houston
24	Kelsey Wicks	G	6-2	So.	4.7	3.3	0.4 apg	Tied for team-high scoring honors in Europe (14.8 ppg.)
41	Courtney LaVere	F	6-3	Fr.	—	—	—	Had 12 points, six rebounds in debut vs. Houston

Boldface denotes 2001-02 team statistical leaders // (C) denotes team captain // * final statistics from 2001-02 season for returning players only

media poll since they were second in the final 2000-01 AP rankings (which were taken before the NCAA Tournament). This week's No. 9 ranking represents the 43rd week in which Notre Dame has been ranked in the Top 10 (two weeks in 1996-97, 16 in 1998-99, 15 in 1999-2000, 18 in 2000-01 and two in 2002-03).

Five Irish opponents appear in the most recent AP poll, including three in the top 10. Tennessee was ranked second, followed by Connecticut at No. 6 and Purdue at No. 7. In addition, Boston College was slotted at No. 19, and Colorado State was picked 24th. Five other Notre Dame opponents are receiving votes in the latest AP poll -- USC, Villanova, DePaul, Temple and Pittsburgh.

Notre Dame was ranked 10th in the preseason AP poll, marking the sixth time in the last seven seasons that the Irish were tapped in the initial AP survey of the year. It also marked the third time in the last four years that Notre Dame was ranked in the top 10 of the preseason AP poll -- the Irish were seventh in the first 1999-2000 poll, and placed sixth in the 2000-01 preseason poll.

NOTRE DAME ALSO RANKED NATIONALLY IN SEVERAL PRESEASON PUBLICATIONS

The general consensus in most basketball circles is that Notre Dame will be a major player on the national scene in 2002-03. Seven different media outlets released their preseason rankings and the Irish have placed no lower than 16th in any of these polls. Four of those publications ranked Notre Dame in the top 10 in the country to begin this season -- *Street & Smith's* (4th), *Athlon Sports* (5th), *Women's College Hoops.com* (6th) and *Women's Basketball Magazine* (7th). The other preseason rankings came from the *Women's Basketball News Service* (11th), *Lindy's Annual* (12th), and *All-Star Girls Report* (16th).

IRISH INJURY REPORT (as of Nov. 19)

Probable

Sophomore F **Katy Flecky** Low back strain (played vs. Houston)
 Junior G **Le'Tania Severe** Sprained wrist (played vs. Houston)
 Sophomore G **Kelsey Wicks** Soft tissue injury - foot (played vs. Houston)

NOTRE DAME PICKED FOR SHARE OF BIG EAST TITLE IN PRESEASON POLL

For the first time in its eight-year affiliation with the BIG EAST Conference, Notre Dame was picked to finish first in the preseason coaches' poll that was released Oct. 24 at BIG EAST Media Day. The Irish shared top billing with defending national champion Connecticut, with each team earning seven first-place votes and 161 total points in the balloting. Boston College (143 points), Villanova (128 points) and Virginia Tech (110 points) round out the top five.

2002-03 IRISH HONORS

Jacqueline Batteast (So., South Bend, Ind.)

Naismith Award Watch List
 Preseason All-BIG EAST First Team

Courtney LaVere (Fr., Ventura, Calif.)

Top 21 Freshmen of Impact (*Women's College Hoops.com*)

Alicia Ratay (Sr., Lake Zurich, Ill.)

Naismith Award Watch List
 Senior CLASS Award "Player To Watch"
 Preseason All-BIG EAST First Team

KEVIN WHITE RADIO SHOW

A weekly half-hour talk show featuring Notre Dame athletics director **Kevin White** airs on Chicago's ESPN Radio 1000 (1000 AM in Chicago, www.espnradio1000.com). In its third season, "The Kevin White Show" can be heard in 35 states Thursdays at 9 p.m. Central time. White welcomes to the show a series of guests and prominent figures associated with college athletics, including administrators, coaches and media members.



BIG EAST COACHES' PRESEASON POLL

1. (tie) **NOTRE DAME (7)** 161
(tie) Connecticut (7) 161
3. Boston College 143
4. Villanova 128
5. Virginia Tech 110
6. Rutgers 107
7. Miami 104
8. West Virginia 81
9. (tie) Seton Hall 69
(tie) Syracuse 69
11. Georgetown 64
12. Providence 33
13. Pittsburgh 29
14. St. John's 15

2002-03 Preseason Player of the Year

Diana Taurasi, Jr., G/F, 6-0, Connecticut

2002-03 Preseason Rookie of the Year

Ann Strother, Fr., G, 6-2, Connecticut

Preseason All-BIG EAST First Team

Jacqueline Batteast, Notre Dame, F, So.

Chanivia Broussard, Miami, F, Jr.

Trish Juhline, Villanova, G, Sr.

Ieva Kublina, Virginia Tech, F/C, Jr.

Alicia Ratay, Notre Dame, G, Jr.

*Diana Taurasi, Connecticut, G, Jr.

Preseason All-BIG EAST Second Team

Rebekkah Brunson, Georgetown, F, Jr.

Kate Bulger, West Virginia, G, Jr.

Julie McBride, Syracuse, G, Jr.

Cappie Pondexter, Rutgers, G, So.

Brianne Stepherson, Boston College, G, Sr.

* - unanimous selection

Individually, Notre Dame was the only school to place two players on the preseason all-BIG EAST first team. Senior guard **Alicia Ratay** earned *Associated Press* honorable mention All-America honors for the second time in her career last season, and was a first-team all-conference selection. She is the top returning scorer for the Irish, averaging 15.4 points and 5.5 rebounds per game in '01-02. She also led the BIG EAST and ranked 15th in the nation in free throw percentage, hitting a school-record .882 from the charity stripe. Ratay also has been named one of 30 preseason candidates for the Naismith Player of the Year award, her third selection in as many seasons.

Sophomore forward **Jacqueline Batteast** also was recognized by the conference coaches after being named the 2002 United States Basketball Writers Association National Freshman of the Year. The South Bend native averaged 13.8 points and 7.8 rebounds per game last season, and was a unanimous selection as the BIG EAST Rookie of the Year. She also registered 11 double-doubles (second in the conference) and was a second-team all-league selection, the only freshman to make an all-BIG EAST squad in '01-02. In addition, Batteast was a WBCA/Kodak honorable mention All-America selection last year and like Ratay, she has been chosen as one of 30 preseason candidates for the Naismith Player of the Year award.

RATAY NAMED CANDIDATE FOR SENIOR C.L.A.S.S. AWARD

Senior guard **Alicia Ratay** has been selected as one of 30 candidates for the second annual Senior CLASS Award, which is presented annually to the nation's senior Player of the Year by the Senior CLASS Organizing Committee. Ratay is one of three BIG EAST Conference student-athletes on the list of Senior CLASS Award "Players to Watch," joining Villanova's Trish Juhline and Brianne Stepherson of Boston College. Connecticut guard Sue Bird received the inaugural award last year.

Ratay is a two-time *Associated Press* honorable mention All-American and was a first-team all-BIG EAST selection last season. She ranks ninth in school history with 1,375 points and is among the top perimeter shooters in the country, connecting at a school-record .480 clip from behind the three-point line in her career. She also has made a school-record 86.7 percent of her free throws at Notre Dame, and both her free throw and three-point percentages currently stand among the top 10 in NCAA history.

Ratay also is an exemplary student, owning a 3.46 cumulative grade-point average while pursuing a double major in psychology and education. She has been named to the BIG EAST Academic All-Star Team each of the last three years, and she has garnered Dean's List honors three times.

The Senior CLASS Award -- the acronym stands for **Celebrating Loyalty and Achievement for Staying in School** -- is based on a number of factors, the most important being that the recipient must have exhausted their four years of eligibility and have fulfilled their commitment to their respective university. In addition, the recipient must be working toward their degree, be in good academic standing and be of sound moral character. The award was developed last season in response to the recent trend of college basketball players leaving early to turn professional.

The performances of the 30 "Players to Watch" will be tracked during the season, and from that pool of players, a group of 10 finalists will be selected by a national committee of sportscasters and sportswriters that cover Division I college basketball. The finalists then will appear on the official ballot which will be voted upon in March by the national media committee and Division I college basketball coaches. The winner will be announced during the Women's Final Four, to be held April 6-8 at the Georgia Dome in Atlanta.

LaVERE NAMED ONE OF NATION'S "TOP 21 FRESHMEN OF IMPACT"

Courtney LaVere was a consensus All-America selection and one of the top 25 prep players in the country following her senior season at Buena High School in Ventura, Calif. One media outlet believes LaVere will continue that success in her initial campaign at Notre Dame. *Women's College Hoops.com* has chosen the 6-3 freshman forward as one of the website's "Top 21 Freshmen of Impact" for the 2002-03 season.

LaVere joins the Irish after averaging 26.5 points, 11.4 rebounds and 3.5 blocks per game during her senior season. She finished her high school career with 1,897 points (second in school history), 1,029 rebounds (third in school history) and 303 blocks (first in school history). She also holds school single-game records for points (45) and blocks (9), as well as BHS single-season marks for points (741), scoring average (26.5) and blocks (99).

LaVere was named the 1999 California Freshman of the Year by *Cal-Hi Sports*, and she helped lead Buena to the top spot in the *USA Today* Super 25 national rankings for much of the 2000-01 season.



NOW THAT'S A HOME COURT ADVANTAGE

One of the hallmarks of Notre Dame's success has been its stellar play at home. In fact, the Irish have been virtually untouchable at home in recent years, winning 76 of their last 79 games at the 11,418-seat Joyce Center, including a school-record 51-game winning streak (10th-longest in NCAA history) from 1998-2002. Notre Dame also has a 56-4 (.933) record in BIG EAST Conference play at the Joyce Center, sporting a 31-game winning streak at home before it was snapped with a 48-45 loss to Villanova in the 2002 home finale. Besides the Wildcats, only Connecticut (three times) has successfully conquered the Irish on their home floor.

Nevertheless, Notre Dame still owns a five-year, 29-game non-conference winning streak at the Joyce Center -- a stretch that includes victories over a trio of sixth-ranked teams (UCLA and Duke in 1998-99 and Purdue in 2000-01), as well as 25th-ranked Illinois in '98-99. Notre Dame's last non-conference loss at home came back on Dec. 9, 1996, when 19th-ranked Wisconsin toppled the Irish, 81-69. Since its inaugural season in 1977-78, Notre Dame has played all of its games at the Joyce Center. The Irish own a 239-66 (.784) record at the venerable facility. In both the 1999-2000 and 2000-01 seasons, the Irish were a perfect 15-0 at home, setting a school record for home wins in a season. Also, since joining the BIG EAST in 1995-96, Notre Dame is 89-5 (.947) at the Joyce Center.

JAMMIN' THE JOYCE

For the second consecutive season, Notre Dame finished among the top 10 in the nation in attendance for 2001-02. The Irish averaged a school-record 7,825 fans for their 14 home games last season, good for eighth in the final NCAA attendance rankings. Last season also saw Notre Dame register 13 of the top 20 crowds in school history, including a gathering of 9,676 fans, the third-largest in school annals, for the Feb. 10 win over No. 16 Boston College.

Furthermore, all of the top 20 crowds in the Irish record book have occurred during the 15-year tenure of head coach **Muffet McGraw** (1987-present). And, as more evidence of Notre Dame's rapid elevation to "hot ticket" status in South Bend, 19 of the top 20 crowds in school history have been recorded in the last three seasons.

NOTRE DAME FACING ONE TOUGH SLATE

Historically, Notre Dame has always played a difficult schedule and 2002-03 is no exception. The Irish will play no less than 14 teams that qualified for postseason play last year, including nine NCAA Tournament teams (highlighted by defending national champion Connecticut and Final Four participant Tennessee). In addition, six opponents (Arizona State, Connecticut, Purdue, Temple, Tennessee and Valparaiso) won the regular-season or tournament title in their respective conference. Furthermore, 17 of the 24 Irish opponents finished with records of .500 or better last season, including 10 squads that posted 20-win campaigns.

With all of this in mind, it comes as no surprise that Notre Dame's schedule has been ranked 23rd in the nation in the preseason Women's Basketball Coaches Association (WBCA)/Summerville RPI rankings. On its own, the Irish non-conference docket is ranked 16th in the country.

IRISH ON THE SMALL SCREEN

Notre Dame will get a good deal of face time in 2002-03, playing on television at least six times, including nationally-televised contests against Arizona State (Dec. 7 on Fox Sports Net), Purdue (Jan. 4 on CBS) and Connecticut (Jan. 20 on ESPN2). In addition, Notre Dame will appear three times as part of the BIG EAST regular-season television package, playing host to Miami (Jan. 11, noon ET) and traveling to Villanova (Jan. 25, noon ET) and Virginia Tech (Feb. 9, 2 p.m. ET). All three of those games will be telecast in South Bend on WHME-TV on a tape-delayed basis as part of the league's TV deal. The BIG EAST tournament semifinals on March 10 also will be aired on the BIG EAST TV package, while the conference championship game on March 11 will be broadcast live on ESPN2.

NOTRE DAME INKS PAIR OF TOP 20 PREP STANDOUTS IN EARLY SIGNING PERIOD

University of Notre Dame women's basketball coach **Muffet McGraw** announced Nov. 14 that two of the nation's top high school student-athletes have chosen to continue their careers with the Irish, signing national letters of intent to attend Notre Dame beginning in the fall of 2003. **Crystal Erwin**, a 6-2 forward from St. Paul High School in Santa Fe Springs, Calif., and **Susie Powers**, a 5-11 guard from Highlands Ranch High School in Denver, Colo., will join the Irish for the 2003-04 campaign.

Erwin has averaged 22.6 points and 14.5 rebounds per game during her three-year prep career at St. Paul. She holds the school records for career points (2,084) and rebounds (1,324), as well as single-

IRISH MEDIA POLICIES

MUFFET MCGRAW INTERVIEWS

The best time for interviews with Notre Dame head coach **Muffet McGraw** is Tuesday afternoon or by special appointment. Please contact the Notre Dame SID office at 574-631-7516 to make specific arrangements.

THE MUFFET MCGRAW SHOW

Muffet McGraw's half-hour, weekly television show is produced by LeSea Broadcasting and hosted by **Bob Nagle**. The show, now in its fifth season, is carried by WHME-TV (Channel 46) in South Bend and will air at 6:30 p.m. EST on Saturdays beginning in early December.

MORE MEDIA NOTES

- Irish practice sessions are generally open to the media, although the coaching staff may choose to close certain practices. Contact **Chris Masters** in the Notre Dame SID office for exact practice times and availability.
- All player interviews must be coordinated through the Notre Dame SID office. All player and coach interviews must be scheduled in advance — no interviews will be conducted on game days.
- Following games, Notre Dame head coach **Muffet McGraw** and selected players will speak with the media in the football auditorium at the Joyce Center. The visiting coach and selected players may appear in the auditorium after the Notre Dame press conference. Media members should submit interview requests to Notre Dame SID staffers no later than four minutes before the end of the game. The Irish locker room is closed after every game, home and away.

RELEASES AVAILABLE VIA EMAIL

Media members interested in receiving Notre Dame women's basketball game notes and press releases via email should send requests to Assistant Sports Information Director **Chris Masters** at masters.5@nd.edu.

WEB SITE (www.und.com)

Notre Dame's official athletic department web site can be found at www.und.com, with the extensive offerings including live audio and real-time statistics for all Notre Dame home women's basketball games.

NOTRE DAME VS. OGBM LEGENDS (EXHIBITION)



BIG EAST STANDINGS

(as of Nov. 19)

Pl.	Team	BIG EAST	Overall
	NOTRE DAME	0-0	0-0
	Boston College	0-0	0-0
	Connecticut	0-0	0-0
	Georgetown	0-0	0-0
	Miami	0-0	0-0
	Pittsburgh	0-0	0-0
	Providence	0-0	0-0
	Rutgers	0-0	0-0
	St. John's	0-0	0-0
	Seton Hall	0-0	0-0
	Syracuse	0-0	0-1
	Villanova	0-0	0-0
	Virginia Tech	0-0	0-0
	West Virginia	0-0	0-0

TOP JOYCE CENTER CROWDS

Rk.	Date	Opponent	Result	Atten.
T1.	1/15/01	#1 Connecticut	W, 92-76	11,418*
T1.	2/24/01	Georgetown	W, 65-53	11,418*
3.	2/10/02	#16 Boston Coll.	W, 60-44	9,676
4.	3/19/01	Michigan (NCAA)	W, 88-54	9,597
5.	1/26/02	#16 Virginia Tech	W, 64-57	8,878
6.	1/29/02	Syracuse	W, 71-46	8,571
7.	3/17/01	Alcorn St. (NCAA)	W, 98-49	8,553
8.	1/12/92	#2 Tennessee	L, 82-85	8,134
9.	11/18/01	Valparaiso	W, 42-35	7,960
10.	1/5/02	Providence	W, 72-66	7,804
11.	2/26/02	Villanova	L, 45-48	7,785
12.	2/19/02	West Virginia	W, 72-63	7,709
13.	2/13/02	St. John's	W, 66-31	7,677
14.	12/9/01	USC	W, 62-49	7,595
15.	2/12/00	St. John's	W, 94-51	7,530
16.	12/9/00	#6 Purdue	W, 72-61	7,330
17.	11/26/01	Army	W, 89-57	7,323
18.	12/12/01	Western Michigan	W, 71-48	7,310
19.	12/31/01	DePaul	W, 79-50	7,154
20.	12/22/01	Marquette	W, 60-33	7,132

* denotes capacity crowd // rankings are from AP poll
Bold denotes game played in 2001-02

season points (869) with one year still to play for the Swordsmen. Ranked as high as third in the nation by All-Star Girls Report, Erwin was named to the 2002-03 *USA Today* Preseason Super 25 Team, and she is a two-time *Street & Smith's* All-America pick, earning third-team honors last season. She also has been named to all-star teams at the adidas Top Ten Camp each of the last two years and she was a member of the USA Basketball Youth Development Festival West Team this past summer. Erwin is the second California native in as many seasons to commit to the Irish, following current Notre Dame freshman **Courtney LaVere**.

Powers averaged 11.5 points and 6.8 assists per game last season for perennial national power Highlands Ranch High School, which won its third consecutive Colorado Class 5A title last season and was ranked No. 1 in the nation for much of the campaign according to the *USA Today* Super 25 poll. Powers was ranked as high as 12th in the nation by the *Greg Swaim Basketball Report*, and she is a two-time *Street & Smith's* honorable mention All-America selection. She also was Erwin's teammate on the USA Basketball Youth Development Festival West Team in the summer of 2002. In addition to Erwin, Powers will have some familiarity with another Irish player -- she played with sophomore forward **Katy Flecky** at Highlands Ranch in 2000, helping lead the Falcons to the first of their three straight state championships.

With the addition of Erwin and Powers, Notre Dame has its seventh consecutive top 20 recruiting class, according to *Blue Star Basketball*, which rated the newest Irish signees 16th in the nation.

McGRAW INDUCTED INTO SAINT JOSEPH'S UNIVERSITY ATHLETICS HALL OF FAME

University of Notre Dame women's basketball coach **Muffet McGraw** was one of seven people inducted into the Saint Joseph's (Pa.) University Athletics Hall of Fame Nov. 16 in Philadelphia. McGraw was a standout point guard for Saint Joseph's during its first four years of varsity competition, serving as team captain during her final two seasons (1975-76 and 1976-77). She helped lead the Hawks to an 18-3 record as a junior and a third-place finish in the AIAW Eastern Regional Tournament. A year later, she guided SJU to a 23-5 record, a sixth-place finish at the AIAW National Tournament, and a No. 3 national ranking in the *Associated Press* poll, the highest year-end poll finish in school history. She also set the Saint Joseph's single-season record for steals with 102 during the 1976-77 campaign.

McGraw graduated from SJU in 1977 with a bachelor's degree in sociology. She played one season for the California Dreams in the Women's Professional Basketball League (WBL) before beginning her college coaching career as an assistant coach at her alma mater from 1980-82. Following five successful seasons at Lehigh (1983-87), McGraw was named the head coach at Notre Dame, a position she has held ever since.

As she enters her 16th year with the Irish, McGraw has posted a stellar 342-127 (.729) record, guiding Notre Dame to 13 20-win seasons, nine postseason appearances, seven NCAA Tournament berths, four Sweet Sixteen visits, two Final Fours and the 2001 NCAA title. The 2001 Naismith and AP National Coach of the Year, McGraw also is a member of the SJU Women's Basketball Hall of Fame and the Philadelphia Big Five Hall of Fame.

IRISH ASSISTANT COACH TO BE FEATURED ON WNBA.COM

When she's not diligently working with the Notre Dame women's basketball team, assistant coach **Coquese Washington** spends the offseason playing in the Women's National Basketball Association (WNBA). A six-year veteran point guard, Washington guided the Indiana Fever to their first-ever playoff berth this past summer, following her midseason trade from the Houston Comets.

During the course of the 2002-03 college basketball season, *WNBA.com* will feature regular interviews and chat sessions with Washington. Readers will get an inside look at how she successfully handles the challenges of being a collegiate assistant, while also remaining prepared for the next professional basketball season.

TICKETS ON SALE FOR NOTRE DAME-TENNESSEE GAME AT CONSECO FIELDHOUSE

A potential matchup of Top 10 teams is on the horizon when Notre Dame and Tennessee tangle Dec. 28 at 1 p.m. (EST) at Consecro Fieldhouse in Indianapolis. Tickets still remain for this battle of college basketball powers -- \$14 for lower level seats, and \$10 for club level seats. Fans can also register to attend a post-game "Meet 'N Greet" with Indiana Fever standouts **Tamika Catchings** (Tennessee '01) and **Niele Ivey** (Notre Dame '01), as well as purchase discounted tickets for the NBA game between the Indiana Pacers and New Orleans Hornets which will follow at 7 p.m. (EST).

For more information on this game, or to buy tickets, call the Consecro Fieldhouse Box Office at (317) 917-2500, or visit the Consecro Fieldhouse website at www.ConsecroFieldhouse.com.